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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

FEBRUARY 19th, 1978, ISSUE No. 5

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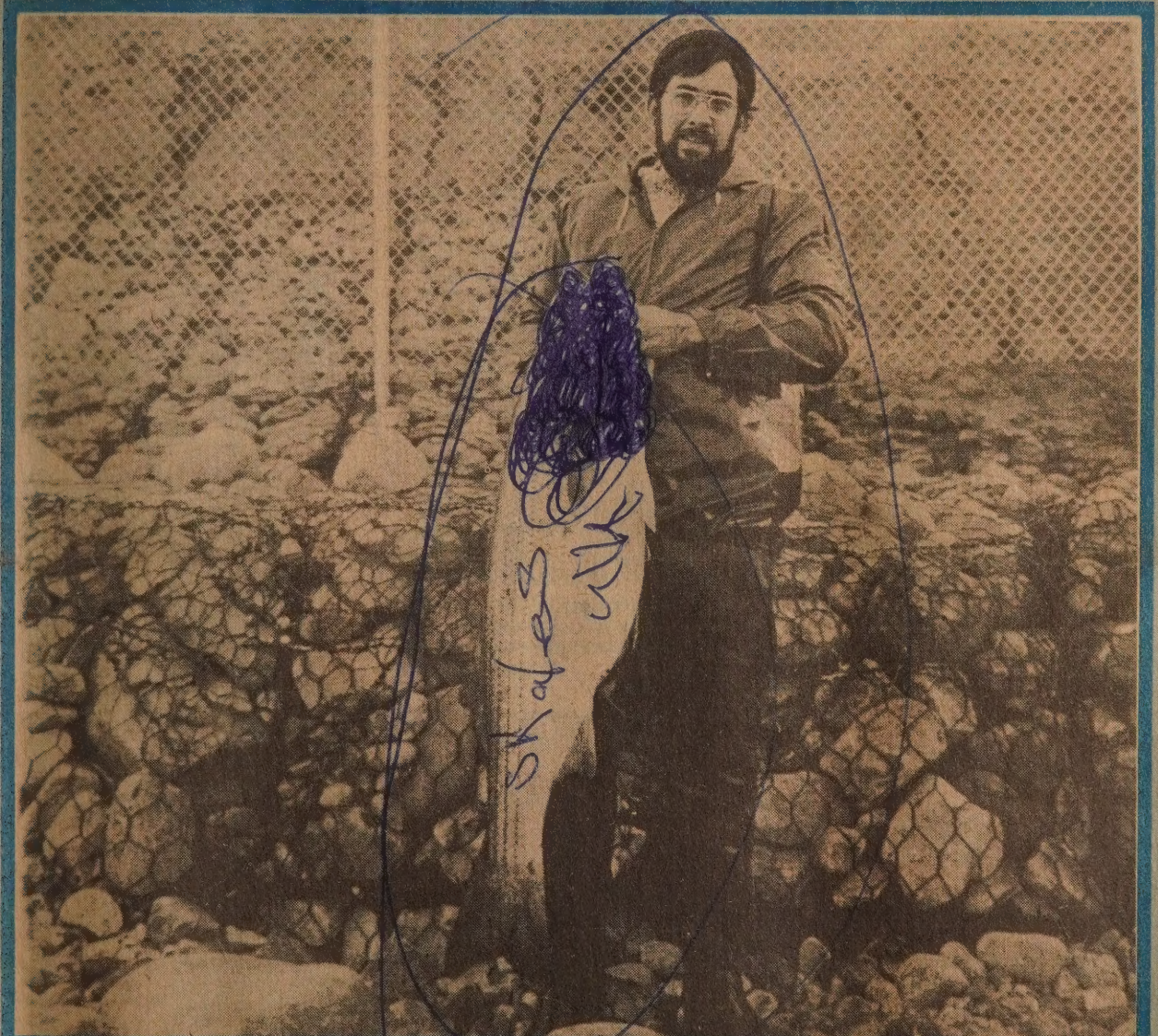

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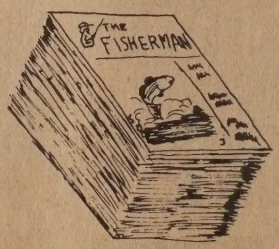

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THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOLUME 11, No. 5 FEBRUARY 19th, 1976

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ABOUT THE COVER: Steve Savitz hoists his first bass "ever", against the backdrop of Montauk Point's newest anti-erosion efforts. See "A Case For The Neophyte Fishing Philosophy" by Dr. Wm. Muller on page 18.

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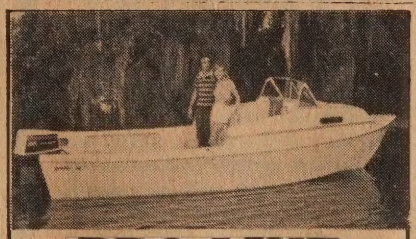

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L.I.F. SHOW THANK YOU

Dear Dr. Muller: On behalf of the "Outboard Skippers Club" I would like to thank you for a most informative lecture and film on 8 December 1975.

We appreciate you taking time out from your busy schedule to enlighten us on the "Salt Marshes and the Future of our Fisheries". It was enjoyed by all of us.

Have a happy and healthy New Year and I hope that we may have the pleasure of your company sometime in the near future. Sincerely, **Lt. Joseph J. Sipos, Outboard Skippers Club SSPS**

HAPPY SUBSCRIBER

Enclosed is my renewal for the Long Island Fisherman. As an eleven year resident of the Rockaways, I have enjoyed fishing almost all of my life.

Recently in our area, the Gateway Park was opened. I enjoyed reading information in your publication as did many of my fishing buddies. Also, as a strong believer in the need for a 200 foreign fishing limit, I feel the information printed was unbiased, and factual; considering what we read in the newspapers these days. You made believers out of many fishermen. Keep up this find job. **Bill Baron, Rockaway.**

ARTICLE CORRECTION

Oops! Due to a typographical error, some names were left out of the second paragraph of my article entitled "Environmental Action On A Trout Stream." (LIF 2-12-76).

To give credit where much is due, the members of the work paty whose names were omitted were: Dave Brodie, The Project Coordinator, Joe Diliosa, Mike Greco, Glen Mikkleson and Steve Russo.

On page 13, the last word of the center column should be Conservation, Not conversation. While all fishermen are great talkers, I find that, for the majority, their dedication is strongest toward protecting the environment. Members of Trout Unlimited don't just talk, they do something about it! **Ron Miller**

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We regret to inform you of the passing of Don Vetter. Don, one time Editor of The Long Island Fisherman, also an excellent contributing writer for several years will be dearly missed by all of us at the L.I.F. and I'm sure, by all of his readers. His multi-faceted fishing knowledge was endless and his willingness to pass on to you all that he knew was done in the most unselfish way.

Don was all you could want in a friend or an employee. He was intelligent, witty, unselfish and extremely sensitive. Yes, he will be dearly missed but he will never be forgotten. Speaking for myself and I'm sure for many others, his memory will linger on for many years to come. Fortunately for all of us, writing came easy to Don. We have in our posession a stack of articles by Don that will take us well into the middle of 1976. Read these articles well, and retain all the good information in them, for when the articles come to an end we will learn no more from him because Don is gone...Rich Reina

FREE SAFE BOATING COURSE

The Captree Power Squadron invites all men, women and older teens, who are interested in learning how to operate a boat safely, to attend our spring SAFE BOATING CLASS, to be held on Wednesday, Feb. 25th, 1976 at the Lindenhurst Junior High School, 350 South Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst, New York. Registration will begin at 7:30 P.M. in the main cafeteria.

The Captree Power Squadron, with its excellent teaching staff, will show you how to operate and maintain a safe boat. Safety afloat is the name of the game in this ten week course which will cover the training you will need. Each week, an experienced boatman will discuss and answer questions pertaining to the course material. A table proctor will be assigned to teach you chart reading and course plotting.

A final examination will be given on completion of the course. Those who receive a passing grade will be awarded a certificate, and should consider themselves as having attained the basic knowledge necessary to keep themselves and their families safe and alive while on the waters.

USCGA COURSE AT BETHPAGE HIGH SCHOOL

Flotilla 13-8, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct the following courses at Bethpage High School, Steward Avenue In Bethpage, starting —;00 P.M.:

1. 3-Lesson Outboard Engine Maintenance, starting Feb. 24th. 2. 3-Lesson Inboard Engine Maintenance, starting March 16th and 3. 4-Lesson N.Y. State Young Boatmans Course, ages 10-16, starting March 23rd.

For further information call (516) 546-2404 after 7:00 P.M.

12 LESSON BOATING SAFETY AND SEAMANSHIP COURSE

Flotilla 19-4 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct a Spring Twelve (12) Lesson Boating Safety and Seamanship Course on the Basic Rules of the Road, Charting, Weather and Boat handling, at the Stony Brook Yacht Club in Stony Brook, NY.

Registration and instruction will begin Monday evening Feb. 23rd, at 8:00 P.M. (20:00) hours and each Monday thereafter.

There will be a nominal cost for class materials. Boat owners and Future Boat owners and their families 16 and over are welcome. Certificates will be given to those who successfully complete this course. For information contact the Public Education Officer at 265-3694 or the Growth and Retention Officer at 473-7267.

Don't be a Water-Litterbug!

Take your garbage *back* to the dock!

EDITORIAL

LONG RANGE PRIORITIES

I was looking at the tabulation of a popular survey that appeared in Long Island Press Issue #5 recently. The goal of the survey was to determine which problems Americans view as most important at the start of 1976.

At the top of the list was the economy followed in order by taxes, government integrity, crime, energy, welfare reform, education, senior citizens, ecology, foreign policy, health care, housing, discrimination, and drugs.

It is disturbing that environmental matters seem to be relatively unimportant to the bulk of Americans, and what's more the percentage of those who see these problems as priority issues is declining. Four years ago, in 1972, 13% of those surveyed believed that ecological issues were most important. At the time the survey was done less than half of the 13% of 1972 were still on the environmental band wagon or a mere 6%!

It was indeed sad if our concerns for the present state of economy grips us with such fear that we have forgotten that all short range problems are destined to become moot if long range problems are relegated to a dark closet. We must not allow short sighted politicians to induce the same myopic condition in ourselves. Sure the economy, taxes, and the like are important, however, these are problems which are known to be cyclical and furthermore we seem to have some experience and expertise in handling them. Let's face it, it this administration doesn't make progress with the economy we will elect a different group of men and women with different ideas and they will more than likely improve things or so the lessons of history would seem to indicate. Can we say the same for the environment?

What will happen to civilization if we continue down the pollution road that we have traveled for several centuries now? What good will it be to discuss rising taxes when there is no clean water to drink, pure air to breath, nor any uncontaminated food to eat? The PCB issue is just the beginning. In the near future the sale of striped bass in New York State may be prohibited and so too all fishing in the Hudson River because of the toxic danger of PCB's. Will weakfish, bluefish, flounder and the rest of our coastal fishes be next?

If overpopulation continues can we ever hope to handle the pollutant wastes from countless billions of people regardless of the technology that may soon be discovered? Make no mistake about it, the world is already overpopulated and that includes these United States. I know what you're thinking—all those open spaces out west and north. But where do you think oxygen, clean water, and food come from—crowded cities? There must be forrests, water sheds, grazing lands, prairies, lakes, rivers, streams, etc. if we are to continue breathing, eating and drinking!

Environmental matters are not fads like the Hula Hoop, to be discarded when we become fatigued with seemingly endless newspaper copy. Concern over ecological preservation is equal to concern for the preservation of Homo Sapiens!

Granted, of all the problems listed above the ecological issues are perhaps the most nebulous and confusing. Still, the lessons of history tell us that we cannot hope to solve any problem until we take the first positive step towards an intelligent solution. In the year 1976 which lies before us, let each of us remember, inspite of our personal hardships and problems, that our children will inherit the legacy of today's concern for short range problems if the concern is at the expense of long range priorities.

William A. Miller

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The Casting Gourmet

How To Smoke Fish The Right Way

All fishermen know that as soon as a fish leaves his natural habitat—the water—it begins to deteriorate. The flesh of some fish break down through microbial action sooner than others but all fish should be kept as cool as possible—on ice if practical. Small fish are generally more perishable than the larger ones and the spoiling process is much slower when fish have been gutted and thoroughly cleaned.

Even smoked fish are subject to spoilage. After smoking has been completed, wrap the fish in waxed paper, aluminum foil or plastic sheets and then place in a refrigerator. The temperature should not be over 40 to 45 degrees and they should be used within a month.

Frankly speaking, your "Casting Gourmet" has never smoked a fish in his life. So, in order to give you the very best advice as to how to smoke fish, I have written several good sources and have selected that which was prepared by the Sea Grant Program of the University of Wisconsin.

Most all fish can be successfully smoked but the safety and quality of the finished product largely depends on the skill, experience and knowledge of the person who does the smoking. Research indicates that a safe and high quality product can be obtained by using the brining and smoking procedures outlined here.

Certain steps in the brining must be carefully controlled:

A. The use of recommended amount of salt in the brine. **B.** The use of an adequate amount of brine for a given amount of fish. **C.** The temperature of the brine (40 degrees). **D.** The use of similarly sized fish, and **E.** The use of similar kinds of fish in the brining.

In the smoking process the most important aspects are:

A. The uniformity of the temperature treatment of all fish in the smoking chamber. **B.** The rate of increase in the fish flesh, and **C.** maintaining the desired temperatures in the fish flesh for the total smoking period for all fish in the smoker.

A. Equipment for Smoking

Metal Drum Smoker. (See Fig. A) This drum is a 50 gallon drum used for oil or alcohol. Cut out the top of the drum, using a chisel or a cutting torch. Reduce the diameter of the removed top by about 3 inches. Suspend this top from 3 brackets 13 inches from the top of the drum, to serve as a heat baffle. Next cut out a section at the base of the drum for a fire pit door, approximately 10" x 8". Lightweight sheet metal may be used for a door on a single hinge. Make a tray for holding the fish from heavy ½" or ¼" wire mesh. Suspend this tray from metal strips so that it is 6 inches from the top of the drum. A wood or metal cover may be used to hold smoke in the drum.

Wooden Barrel Smoker. (See Fig. B) Knock the ends of a large wooden barrel. Set it over a hole in the ground which is about 2 feet deep and a little narrower in width than the diameter of the barrel. Nail wooden strips inside the barrel on two sides, a few inches below the top. The ends of the smokesticks rest on these strips. Place a loosely fitting cover on top. The barrel will not catch on fire if ventilation is controlled and fire is smothered to form smoke rather than flames. Keep the top closed during smoking. Allow just enough air to enter to keep fire smoldering.

Suspend some type of rods, iron or wooden, at the top of the barrel. Space far enough apart so that fish do not touch when hung. A rack of coarse wire mesh may be used in place of the rods. Make hooks of 8 or 10 gauge wire about 14 inches long or from coat hanger wire. Bend a loop in the center of the wire large enough to slide over the rods. Bend the ends of the wire in such a way that the fish will not slip off during the smoking. To be on the safe side, place a wire mesh tray underneath the hanging fish to catch any that may fall off during the smoking.

B. Prepare Fish for Smoking by Cleaning and Brining.

1. Use freshly caught dressed fish whole or filleted. Larger whole fish can be split lengthwise to, but not through, the back skin so they will lie flat. Very large fish can also be steaked. Wash the fish thoroughly.

2. Fish for smoking must be brined. Use either of the following methods. One gallon of brine is enough for four pounds of fish.

A. As the fish are dressed, place them in a heavy plastic container or glass in a brine consisting of 1½ cups salt (Kosher, preferably) to one gallon of cold water. Keep the fish in brine for at least 12 hours at refrigerator temperatures (40 degrees). B. For a short brine method, use a brine of 4 cups salt to 1 gallon of cold water. Brine for 15 minutes.

3. Remove the fish from brine and drain. Rinse to remove salting mixture. Place fish skin side down on a wire mesh screen or suspend from hooks or wooden dowls as shown in the diagram. A method which holds the fish flat provides for more uniform smoking.

4. A short stem metal heat thermometer should be inserted centrally in the thickest portion of the flesh of the largest fish to measure flesh temperature. It may be necessary to tie the thermometer so it will register correctly.

C. Heat Source

An old iron skillet on an electric hot plate can be used as a heat source for the smoker. Place sawdust or wood chips in the skillet and allow them to smolder. An alternate heat source is charcoal briquets which have been burned to a light gray color. Sprinkle wet wood chips or wet sawdust on the briquets to produce smoke.

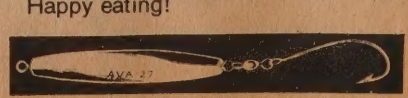
Oak, hickory, maple, alder, beech, apple, white birch, or ash wood chips or sawdust produce a good smoke. Do not use wood containing pitch, such as pine. Wood can be cut in pieces about 8 inches long and 1 inch in diameter or you may use chips.

Sawdust burns slowly and produces a good smoke. Smoke which has been overheated over-emphasizes the smoke flavor. Kindle fire and get a good bed of coals going before placing barrel over the fire. Have a smoldering fire with no flames. Stoke the fire every half hour or so or as needed.

D. Smoking Procedure

Place the fish in the smoker when the air temperature is about 100 degress. A regular meat thermometer can be hung on a rack in the center of the smoker or inserted through a hole in the smoker cover to guide you on temperature. During the smoking, the internal temperature should rise to 225 degrees F. **Holding the fish at this temperature for 30 minutes is essential to cooking the fish and to inhibit bacterial action.** Total smoking time will be about 4 hours. Don't forget to wrap the fish as previously mentioned and to store it at temperatures not over 40 or 45 degrees and to consume it within a month.

Happy eating!



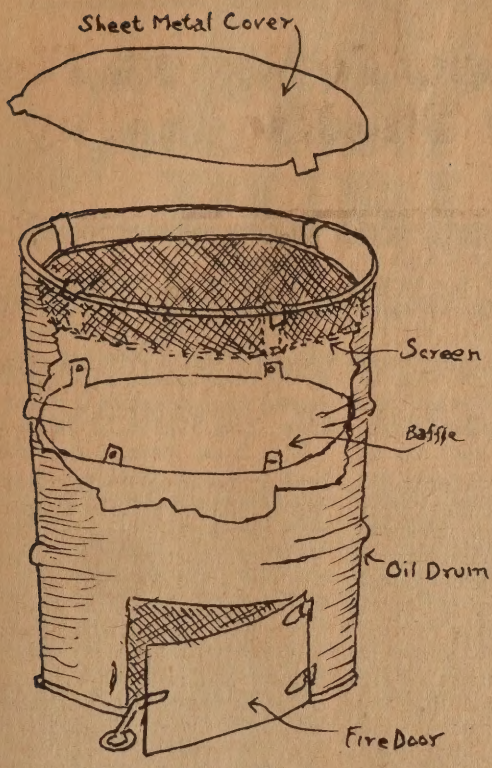


Fig. A

Metal Drum Smoker

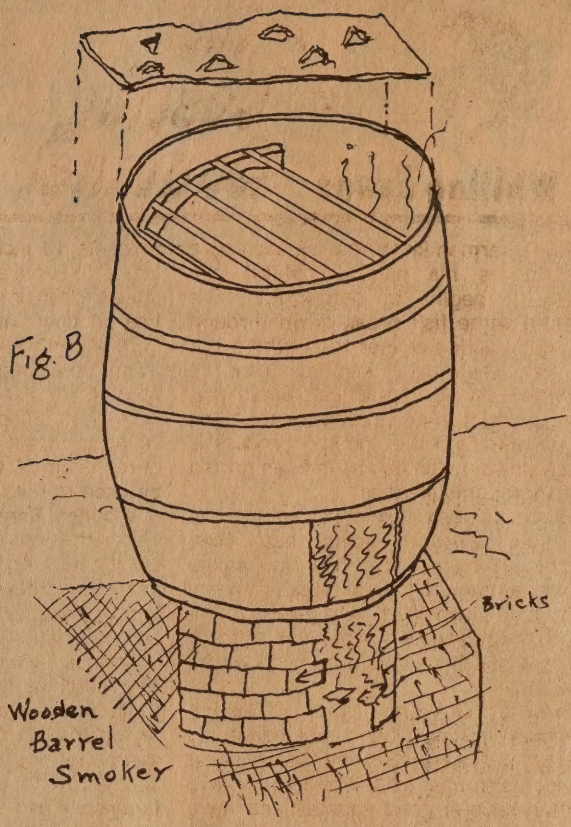


Fig. B

Wooden Barrel Smoker

Fig. 1. Split fish hung on two ¼" rods

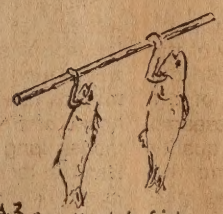


Fig. 2 Small whole fish hung on "S" shaped hooks.

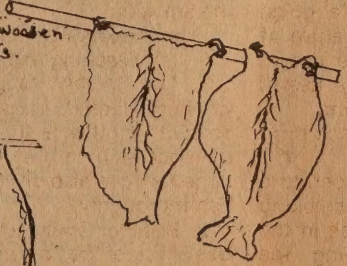


Fig. 3 Split fish nailed to wooden strips or large sticks.

Fig. 4. Whole fish strung on round wooden dowels

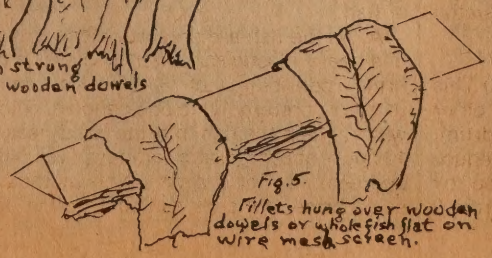


Fig. 5. Fillets hung over wooden dowels or whole fish flat on wire mesh screen.

Surf Side with John Fritz

Cleaning The Crack 300

Do you remember in what corner you threw that reel after last year's season fizzled to a close? It might seem like a long way off but now April 15th will be here before you know it. Equipment repair put off for another day because there is plenty of time, gets a lick and a promise when rumors of bass on the beach filter through the grapevine. That last minute rush to get to the beach for the first time could hold some unpleasant surprises. The time is now to prepare for next year's fishing and the one piece of equipment most needed in good working order is the reel.

The Crack 300 is to the surf fisherman what the Model T was to American drivers in the late 20's. This is the reel most often seen on the beach as it is relatively inexpensive. The Crack, with minimum care performs well under the abuse given to it by salt, sand and monster bass.

In order to do a thorough job of cleaning this reel it must be completely disassembled, cleaned, oiled, and packed with new grease. When undertaking any task the correct tools are important and I believe is half the job. You will need in this case: 2 screwdrivers, 1/8'' blade and ¼'' blade, needle nose pliers, open and wrench size 9/32, 30 caliber gun cleaning brush (stiff brass wire brush), old toothbrush, good quality reel grease, fine oil (gun or sewing machine), kerosene and container to wash parts, rags and fine emery cloth.

Before you start place a sheet of newspaper on working area. This will enable you to keep track of the smaller parts and ease the clean-up job when you are finished. Also, see if you can find the parts list that came when your purchased the reel. Correct names and parts numbers are listed if replacements are needed. This list shows the correct assembly order if you mix the parts up.

The first step is to remove the spool by backing off on the large wing nut found on the face of the spool. Before putting the nut aside clean the inside threads of any sand corrosion or old grease with a rag or if necessary the wire brush. When clean apply coating of grease to inside threads and place aside.

The spool can either be done now or saved until last, as the line must be stripped off and replaced with new line. It might look good to you but at least the first 150 yards have to be changed. Remember this is your only link between you and that fish fighting for it's life on the other end. In any case all line should be taken off so that the corrosion underneath can be eliminated. Try the wire brush, this will not scratch the finished area where the corrosion has not pitted the surface. Clean? Wipe with oily rag so that fine film covers the surface. Not too heavy, you don't want any on your new line. After wiping away any salt and sand from the exterior surfaces pop out the ring clip holding the brass washer, clean, wipe with oil. Pick out the brass washer and clean. Take out the teflon washer and replace if needed. No Teflon washer? Get at least two they make some difference in the drag system. (The second washer goes on the opposite side of the spool). Wipe clean the recess where the front washer is found and replace same without grease.

Brass washer, then clip finish this step. The spool should now be OK, so set it aside.

Unscrew the handle of the reel, remember it unscrews the opposite way of a normal thread. Remove any of that green stuff with the wire brush. Take out screw or axle set inside plastic handle, clean shaft, grease and replace, clean and oil threads inside crank handle hub. Set aside for assembly.

Before opening the reel we'll go to the pick up arm and clean the roller. Take out screw or roller axle and pull roller bracket out of it's seat. Check roller for grooving and replace if necessary. Clean, oil and put back, making sure roller spins freely. I'm assuming that most of you are using the Crack as manual pickup with the bail removed. Customizing the Crack 300 will be covered in a future article.

Now unscrew the 3 screws on the side plate and pull apart. What a mess! We will save that for later and work on the side plate and the bevel gear that fits into it. Grab the brass gear and pull apart. If the shaft is frozen try a gentle tapping on the other end, being careful not to damage the exposed threads. Once apart put into container and wash in kerosene to remove all old grease and grime. Clean shaft with emery cloth if needed coat with grease and replace. This shaft frequently freezes up under the abuse of salt water so check the small oil plug screw to see if it is free. Periodically during the season force oil in this opening. If there is any doubt about the serviceability of this gear, get a new one.

Maybe now you had better get a pencil and paper to make a list of all the parts you need. By ordering now you will save yourself some aggravation later in the spring. Many parts are back ordered and waiting for parts seems to be the normal thing.

Back to the messy part. Take out as much grease as possible from the crank case area of the reel and you will find a small nut at the end of the spool axle. Remove, being careful not to lose the small lock washers. Now pull out the spool axle and wash along the cam plate which is now free. Take out the three screws found on the aluminum plate, wipe plate, and set aside.

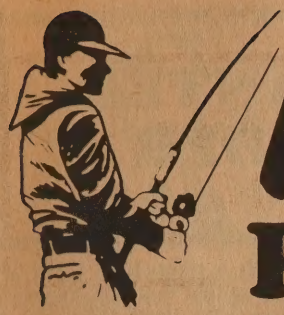
This brings us to the reel shell axle held in with two screws. Remove screws and pull out axle. Won't come? Take pliers and place around gear on the other end, tap gently until free. Put in kerosene and clean the bearing by spinning the solution. When old grease is washed away, check for rust and replace if necessary.

The bearing supplied with the reel is not stainless. Now might be a good time to replace with a stainless steel bearing, your reel is apart, not in use and you'll be sure of trouble free fishing with minumum maintenance for some time to come. If you look at the reel shell axle you will find that you can't get the bearing out of the brass seat in which it is set. Therefore the whole piece would have to be replaced. The Surfcaster has a machine which frees the bearing for replacement with a stainless steel bearing which he guarantees. The cost is $8 and if sent by United Parcel Service, postage is 75 cents. The address is: Mr. Bill Prisberger, 113 Maywood Road, Darien, Conn. 06820. When sending for replacements attach a tag to each axle stating your name and the model of reel. Remember the older reels are Luxor's and some parts are different. Bill also carries a find quality reel grease.

Clean out the housing of all old grease and you are now ready for assembly.

As each part is replaced coat with grease making sure to force as much as possible into the bearing. first the bearing, 2 screws; Aluminum plate, 3 screws; shaft and cam plate, washers and nut. Now pack the housing with grease and replace sideplate making sure tit on bevel gear is set into slot on

(Continued on page 19.)



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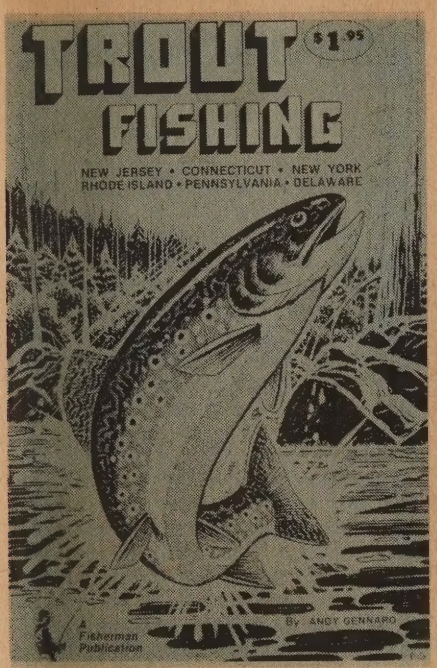

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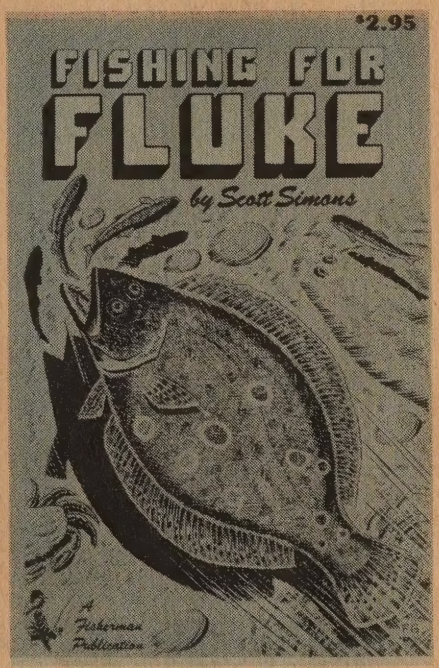

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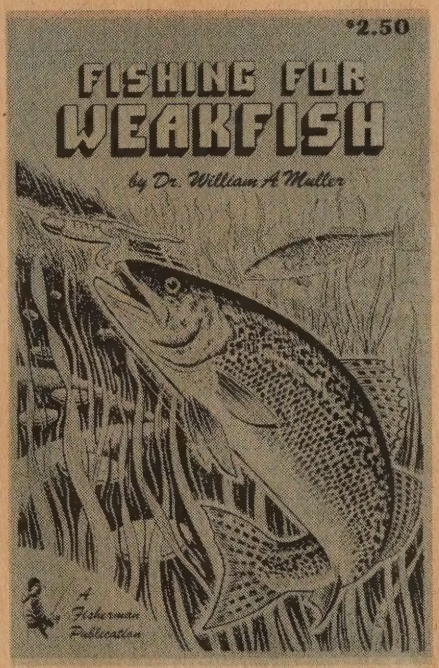

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

LATE WINTER FLOUNDER

Fishermen have long considered St. Patrick's Day the "official" start of spring flounder fishing, but I often find myself champing at the bit long before this. When this urge becomes too great, I usually attempt my first trip around Washington's Birthday—give or take a few days.

There's no question that flounders are out there awaiting Nature's signal to leave their gooey mid-blanket and begin feeding, but weather is often the deciding factor at this time of year. If there's been a mild spell heralding the approach of spring several days prior to a planned trip, fish will be caught. If it's been exceptionally cold and windy, be advised to wait until month's end or at least until some day during the first week of March.

Most fishermen are creatures of habit, which means they rarely begin flounder fishing until the weather has moderated, say sometime in mid-April. And being creatures of habit, the majority of these fishermen will arm themselves with a couple of dozen sand or bloodworms and go out and catch fish.

But if these same fishermen are thinking about taking a crack at these late winter flounders, I believe they'd be better off to forget the squirmers and concentrate on using bank mussels. Nothing will put fish in the bucket in late winter as will the use of these yellow-meated tid-bits.

Except in isolated instances, the days are long gone when a fisherman could select a sod bank on any creek or bay and pick a day's supply of mussels in minutes. Today, you'll find them available at most fishing stations. Depending on how many will fish, and taking into consideration that some should be used for chum for best results, anywhere from a half to a full bushel will be required.

If at all possible, it's a good idea to pick up your supply a day or two before the actual fishing. They then can be opened at your convenience. This operation can be done while fishing, of course, but should your day turn out to be chilly and windy, it won't take long to achieve miserable, numbed fingers. Better do it indoors.

Some fishermen often take a short-cut and steam the mussels for several minutes. They find it an easy way to get at the meat. And it is; however, the steaming tends to toughen the meat. And flounders, especially the larger ones, will shy away from a tough bait, be it mussel, clam or worm.

It isn't difficult to open mussels. It's easier, actually, then one might expect. I find a thin-bladed jack knife to be ideal. Crack the shell if you wish and pick out the meat, but you'll find mussel a better bait if removed in one piece. Fill a jar with a predetermined amount. Put aside the broken shells and add them to your chum.

This is the time of year when bay waters, though warming slightly, are still mighty cold, and you'll find most flounders going through a natural state of torpor. Look for them in the deepest mud holes surrounding your fishing spot.

You may have to ferret out these places when fishing unknown waters. Many fishermen do this by using a sinker-weighted line, testing the depths as they approach the area they intend fishing. The best and easiest method of all is to use an up-to-date chart for your selected body of water. These are truly the fisherman's right arm, pinpointing water depth to the exact foot plus giving the bottom's composition.

Some fishing stations carry these charts and you should avail yourself of this wealth of information. Should you have difficulty locating these handy aids, all the necessary information for the area you intend fishing can be yours by writing to the Superintendant of Documents, Washington, D.C. and explaining your needs.

You'll be sent a listing of charts and prices. This cost is so reasonable and the value received so great, the price will seem truly ridiculous. This is one area in which the fisherman gets more than his money's worth.

Now to get back to fishing...As mentioned before, the experienced, successful fisherman will search out the deeper spots containing the necessary mud needed by the semi-dormant flounders; few are found on sand bottom at this time of year, even if the weather is mild.

All sea life is governed by water temperature, and flounders are no exception. They may become active sooner than other shallow water fish, but the water must reach a certain temperature before they voluntarily seek out food.

During February, bay water is usually too cold for this. If no action is forthcoming in a reasonable time, and you know for certain that you are over a mud-hole, you can roust them out by dragging the anchor through it. Bouncing a sash weight or similar object when anchored often works, too.

Once out of the mud, they'll begin feeding and nothing is accepted more readily then mussel. Place a generous piece on a number nine or ten Chestertown hook. Be sure a little trails in the current; don't worry if the bait appears to be too large.

These fish done little feeding over winter and they'll pounce on this tempting morsel with relish. Chumming now with crushed mussel, either dribbled overside, or in a chum pot, will often keep them alive and out of the mud.

Some fishermen object to using mussels as bait, claiming they are difficult to keep on the hook. True to some extent, but only if the fisherman casts with them. But what these fishermen don't consider is that this early flounder fishing is usually done while anchored directly over the fish, therefore it isn't, or shouldn't be, necessary to cast.

Mussel will stay on if it's weaved and wrapped around the hook shank several times; at least long enough to interest a hungry fish. I do find, though, that because the mussel's succulence seems to disipate rather quickly in the current, it pays to renew the bait frequently. Once the fish respond, this is usually not as important.

As a matter of personal choice, I don't often use the Chestertown hook for flounder fishing. I believe the number six Sproat to be much better. But in this early flounder fishing they are the best selection for two reasons:

Flounders at this time of year are hungry when conned into biting and, much to the dismay of the fisherman, often inhale a hook deep in their gullet. These long-shanked Chestertowns make hook removal easy.

Secondly, as the weather is seldom mild at this time of year, there is no point in the fisherman suffering through the agony of removing a regular-shanked hook with numb fingers. If you are a number six Sproat devotee, save them for the warmer weather when they really produce.

You'll find most of these late winter

(Continued on page 19.)

THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

I.G.F.A. Records Part One

Three or four times during each fishing season I come across a very aggravating situation: an angler catches a fish of potential-record proportions, but either fails to claim it as such because he is unaware that it is a potential record or unknowingly breaks one of the many angling rules that disqualifies the fish as a record. So this week and next we'll go over all the rules and present records so that when YOU take that record fish this year you'll know what to do about receiving the recognition you deserve from other anglers.

The International Game Fish Association (I.G.F.A.) is the official keeper of World Records for the Marine Fishes. The purposes of this organization are many, but it primarily serves to standardize angling rules and keep records so that anglers may compete on an even basis around the world. The I.G.F.A. is strictly non-profit, supported by contributions from individual anglers and fishing clubs. An individual angler contributing the annual $10 is entitled to a Regular Membership in the I.G.F.A. Regular Members receive the annual 88-page booklet "1976 World Record Marine Fises" listing record fish currently recognized by the I.G.F.A. and has all the angling rules and an application blank for filing a record. Members also receive "The International Marine Angler", which is the bi-monthly I.G.F.A. newsletter that reports angling activities throughout the world, updates world record applications and awards, and keeps anglers informed of scientific and legislative developments relating to the sport. In addition, new members receive an I.G.F.A. jacket patch, membership decals and a personalized Membership Card. You DO NOT, however, have to be a member of the I.G.F.A. to set a world record—rich man, poor man, black, white or green around the gills—ANY-ONE who catches a big fish can claim a record as long as it is caught according to the rules and is approved by the I.G.F.A. To join the I.G.F.A., send a check to them at 3000 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316.

The I.G.F.A. maintains World Records for 58 species of salt water game fish. Any of these species caught in accordance with the rules is eligible for a World Record if outweighs the existing record by more than one-half pound (9 ounces), if the fish weighs less than 100 lbs., or exceeds the old record by at least one-pound (16 ounces), if the fish is over 100 lbs. A catch that exceeds the existing record by less than these minimums is considered a tie, and is entered as such in the record book.

The World Records are kept for both men and women (women's lib, where art thou?) in seven line class categories: 6 lb. (up to and including 6 lbs.), 12 lb. (over 6 to 12), 20 lb. (over 12 to 20), 30 lb. (over 20 to 30), 50 lb. (over 30 to 50), 80 lb. (over 50 to 80), and 130 lb. (over 80 to 130). An "All-Tackle" record is also recognized for the largest species taken on any of these line classes. The wet testing strength of all lines submitted with record claims is tested by the IGFA in a nationally recognized laboratory in accordance with U.S. Government specifications.

"Over-testing" of a line is the reason for a very high percentage of the rejected record claims. The fault is usually not the angler but the manufacturers of fishing line. More times than not, when the manufacturer labels line "12 lb. test", he's assuring the angler that the line will not break at LESS than the stated line test. Twelve-pound test may actually test out at 13 or 13½ pounds, which may disqualify the fish for a World Record. Example: you catch a 25 lb. fluke on line labeled by the manufacturer at "12 lb. test" breaking strength. So you send in your claim of breaking the old record of 20 lbs., but when I.G.F.A. tests the line it's actual testing strength is 12½ lbs. This moves the catch into the next highest line category, which is twenty—but the World Record fluke for the 20-lb. line class is 30 lbs. 12 ounces, so your "puny" 25 pounder is just another big fish.

There are only two things that the angler can do to prevent this unfortunate

(**Continued on page 27.**)

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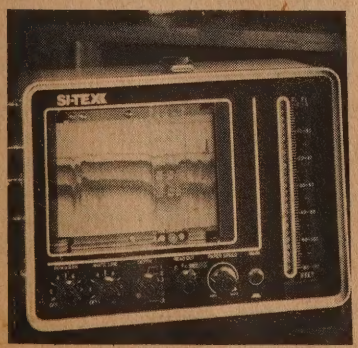

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SNEAKRETS

Part Three

by Fred Schwab

For those who did not read Parts I and II, it is explained that the word **SNEAKRET** was dreamed up for the purpose of writing this article. It's meaning combines that of the words "sneak" and "secret", and with respect to fishing, that's what this article is about.

Probably the best response to those quick to criticize angler's who engage in **SNEAKRETIVE** acts, is to present examples and describe actual incidents which in general, occur each season and necessitate such actions.

A major source of annoyance to beach anglers is the inconsiderate boat operator who isn't satisfied with the whole ocean, he wants the beach too. You know the type, on the way to their destination they rubber neck by running along the beach as close as possible, or zero in on some poor surf fisherman whose just taken a fish. How about the clown who runs full speed into surface feeding fish, or the ones who deliberately cut-off a school which was headed towards the beach where a group of hopeful surfcasters were patiently waiting. This type gives other boatmen the business too; he doesn't throttle down when passing another boat, and won't hesitate running through a chum line.

Beach buggy regulars at Robert Moses Park are familiar with the "Gray Boat". This gill netter, as well as several others, regularly runs along the beach, often well within casting distance. The guy who operates this craft hasn't an ounce of consideration for others. Catch a fish while he's nearby and he'll set his stinking net in your lap. I recall one November morning four years ago, the ocean was quite calm, and school bass were hot on the heels of bunker; right in the wash. If you made a cast of more than twenty feet, you were over casting. Since the fish were not showing beyond the wash and no birds were working over them, anyone in a boat could not possibly have spotted them. A boat traveling at a moderate speed and not particularly close to the beach, was approaching from the west at about the time I took my third fish. In an instant he gunned his engine heading straight for me, then turned and backed in towards the beach and with a smirk on his puss, proceeded to set the net. The "Gray Boat" had ended the fishing for that morning.

Yours truly was hopping mad and I let him know it with a barrage of expletives. Of course, under the existing circumstances it was my fault that the "thing" operating the boat, was clued in on the fish. Normally under those conditions, I would stop fishing until the boat was well beyond me, but on that morning I was careless and paid for it.

On another occasion east of Babylon Town's, Overlook Beach, sportfishing boats ruined the fishing. Only two other anglers were on the beach and from their equipment and the way they handled it, it was evident that they were beginners. Just before dawn I began taking teen sized bass, the other fellows did nothing until daybreak when one of them beached a bass that was easily in the low forties. Instead of placing the fish well out of sight, they laid it on the slope of the beach, in full view. Within minutes three boats, which had been headed full speed towards the Cedar Beach Bar, made sharp turns and honed in on our stretch of the beach, trolling within 100 feet of us. Avoidable incidents like these occur regularly along our beaches each season.

Of course, at confined locations in or near heavily fished areas, the biggest threat to a beach caster's chance at a successful and enjoyable evening, and in some instances, continued access to a particular spot, is other surf anglers.

For instance, one spot which I've occasionally fished when pickings were slim elsewhere, has very limited parking and a "Residents Only" restriction. Fortunately this facility is rarely in use at night and consequently the residency restriction is seldom enforced; but if the word got out you can bet there would be a crowd followed by pressure from local residents, for enforcement.

Several years ago at Montauk, a fellow with the aid of a wet suit had quietly enjoyed consecutive nights of exceptional fishing from a rock situated a bit less than a cast from the beach. On all three nights he took extreme care to handle the fish he caught in such a way as to limit the chances of them being seen from the beach. The fact that other anglers did not linger in the area for very long, proved that his efforts at concealment were successful. But at the conclusion of the third nights fishing, as he struggled back towards the beach, he failed to survey the area for other fishermen as carefully as he had been doing. Upon reaching the beach with his impressive catch, he was caught flat-footed by a stranger.

To his dismay, on the following night, eight anglers strung out behind the rock, prevented him from gaining access to it. It was evident from all the shouting and repeated shining of lights that they were not regulars, and since distance was critical to catching fish at this location, he knew that from their ankle deep positions few if any fish would be caught. He fished elsewhere with little success, returning when the crowd, with empty stringers, was leaving. Though it was late in the tide he made his way out to the rock, but an hour of casting produced just one light tap. By coincidence, the following morning he spoke to a fellow who had been casting that night from a boat anchored very close to that rock, and he displayed a remarkable catch.

One night, not too long ago, four of us were having a ball with a mixture of big bluefish and school bass. Despite heavy buggy traffic along the beach some one hundred feet in back of us, our good fortune had apparently not been detected; each buggy would park for a minute or two, then leave. About an hour had gone by when one vehicle pulled up and the driver displayed his ignorance by training his brights on us. We were all in the midst of playing or unhooking a fish and were certain he'd seen us. So what, there was room for three or four more, but the guy didn't get out of his buggy, nor did he leave. After about 10 minutes a caravan of fast moving vehicles came roaring down the beach and within minutes a dozen or more anglers joined us. It was tight quarters and they were lousy fishermen, though the fish remained few were caught, what with tangles, resultant frayed lines,

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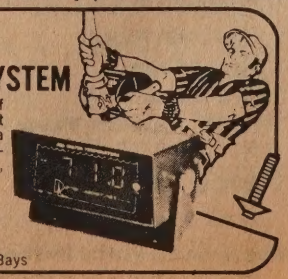

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arguments and lost time. Later on we learned that these "hoopies" all had citizen band radios, and "bright lights" had put the word out.

There have got to be an awful lot of beach buggy operators who spend more time gawking through a pair of binoculars than actually fishing. I've lost count of the times along a straight beach, such as Cedar/Gilgo or Robert Moses, when I was witness to some poor sole, off by himself, making a mad dash to get off a hurried cast or doing nothing to conceal a just beached fish. Within seconds most of the buggies within sight are on the move and he's their target. Probably no one would have given him a second look had he moved slowly or concealed the fish.

There's a small rip which I manage to visit a few times each fall. To avoid detection, I usually "hoof it", rather than run the beach. It requires a long tiring walk, seldom produces and when it does, only one or two fish are taken. In addition, it is one of the most unpredictable pieces of water that I know of. The rip's not always in the same place, varying from one season to another within a 500 foot stretch of beach and changing slightly from one night to the next due to volume of flow and wind direction. Sometimes, just finding it is a challenge. The attraction here is that the bass are big, and because surface activity seldom betrays it's location and accidental catches just don't happen, very few fishermen bother with it; or for that matter even know that it exists. It must be fished in a "just so" manner, and because of it's size, only two or three anglers can fish it simultaneously.

Another trip which produces occasional weakfish on light tackle, is so small that only one individual can properly present the tiny lures which are necessary in the 18 inches of water which exists at the most productive stage of the tide.

The aforegoing is just a sampling, I could ramble on and on, but I'm sure that the majority of readers, with time on the beach, have had similar experiences and possess secrets of their own.

The purpose of this article was not to encourage **SNEAKRETING**, but rather to create a clearer understanding as to why it is employed in a recreational pursuit such as sportfishing.

In the final analysis, it is a growing number of anglers, brought about by burgeoning population and increased leisure time, combined with the comparatively limited areas in which to fish, which are the cause and justification for this necessary evil.

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By ANDY GENNARO

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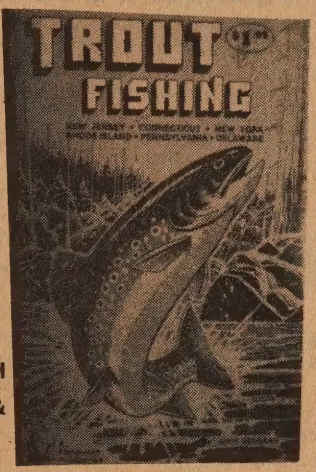

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PCBs in the Hudson River

by Dr. Ira S. Krull

The original appearance of Rachel Carson's book, "The Silent Spring", in 1962, let to the indictment of many organic compounds as environmental pollutants. The book and its advocates aroused such intense interest and fear in the general public, that a report was subsequently issued by the Science Advisory Board of then-President John F. Kennedy, indicating to the world-at-large the potential risks involved in a continued, unrestricted use of certain pesticides. After the early days of the pesticide scare, many of the original chlorinated pesticides (DDT, DDD, Aldrin, etc.) were removed from common use. However, other organic materials have made their presence felt as potentially more dangerous pollutants. One of these materials, the PCB's are a large class of polychlorinated biphenyl derivatives. These polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) have been produced and dispersed into the environment mainly because of their many potential uses. Thus, they are widely used industrial compounds, serving as plasticizers, as sealers in waterproofing compounds, in printing inks, in synthetic adhesives, in cutting oils, and as dielectrics, hydraulic fluids, high-pressure lubricants, and heat-transfer media. Although certain of the major industrial manufacturers of PCB's have agreed to restrict the sales of non-recoverable materials, there is at present no meaningful, long-range national program to regulate either the sale or discharge of PCB's.

Many household items contain PCB's especially electronics such as radios and televisions, and chaulking compounds and sealers. When these items are discarded or burned the PCB's may end up in the water, air, and soil.

Regardless of how remote the area of disposal is placed the PCB's will be carried to major population areas by winds, water currents, and soilerosion. The chemical will also become associated with raindrops and thus be spread out over farmlands, grazing areas, and watersheds.

When the uses of PCB's became restricted within the United States, after 1972, no real decline in the actual amounts of PCB's in the environment followed. Consequently, there envolved within this country and abroad, a growing concern over the long-term effects of PCB contamination. Part of the current problem that exists is due to the lack of an effective toxic substances control law, something that should be remedied in order to protect both the environment and the fishing industry.

PCB's are manufactured entirely in this country by the Monsanto Chemical Co., St. Louis, Missouri, and they are sold to many industrial firms for some of the applications already indicated above. Any disposal of the PCB's during or after their intended function is entirely at the discretion of the purchaser of this material. There are no New York State or federal laws restricting either the sale of use of PCB's; however, this may change drastically within the near future. One of the major customers for PCB's is the General Electric Company, a company recently in the headlines with regard to current investigations about their discharging of PCB's into the Hudson River around the Fort Edward NY area. In order to determine the actual PCB problem around the Fort Edward area, where a General Electric manufacturing plant exists, New York State collected a number of fish within both the Hudson and some if its tributaries above and below the General Electric plant. This research was initiated in late 1975, but preliminary findings by the State of New York have already appeared in a comprehensive report by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. By quantitatively measuring the relative amounts of PCB's within various species of fish taken at different points along the Hudson River, the Department of Conservation was able to say in its report: "This difference between two stations, above Glens Falls and below Fort Edward, indicates that PCB's are entering the aquatic environment between the stations, and that fish, a "sink" for PCB's, are accumulating high levels of the contaminant." Very little is currently known regarding the PCB problem within the Hudson River except for the area immediately around the Fort Edward region. However, it is assumed that as the problem becomes more apparent, other studies will be undertaken to determine the extent and severity of the PCB contamination along the entire length of the Hudson River.

At a recent meeting held by Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz at the World Trade Center in New York City on December 12, 1975, the entire PCB problem as it affects New York State was discussed. One of the conclusions reached by this assemblege of scientists and interested parties was that New York State must have new conservation laws restricting the sale and discharge of PCB's into the environment. It is now known when these laws will be enacted, but there is little doubt that the next legislative session in Albany will have to deal with the current PCB problem. Federal laws have already appeared restricting the amount of PCB's allowed in fish for sale and for human consumption to below 2 parts per million ppm). Should this law become more severe, there are proposals for a 1 ppm limit. It is doubtful that much of the fish currently taken from any of the Great Lakes or the Hudson River could be sold for consumption. Thus, a very large market for these fish would end and the entire inland fish industry would be adversely affected.

PCB's are almost insoluble in water. However, they adhere to suspended matter in the Hudson River waters, and they are then carried downstream. Eventually, they may form part of the bottom sediments of the river, become adsorbed and absorbed by water plants, be filtered out of the river by mussels, clams, crustaceans, and eventually find their way up the food chain into game fish. This is exactly what has already happened to most of the fish around the Fort Edward, NY area, and these fish are not suitable for sale or consumption. Little is currently known about the extent of PCB contamination in that part of the Hudson River bordering Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, or Westchester counties. Much remains to be determined in this regard. Fish tend to accumulate PCB's from the water they swim in and the food that they consume. Evidence exists that once the fish build the PCB's into their fats and tissues, they never leave the fish, nor are they degraded in any manner. The consumption of such fish by an individual results in the incorporation of the PCB's into the body materials, again with very little chance they will be eliminated from the human system in a short period of time. None of this would be meaningful were it not for the fact that PCB's, at certain levels, have been shown in the laboratory to cause severe biological damage to most animals. Thus, they can cause irreparable damage to various organs in laboratory animals, and they have been shown to cause certain forms of cancer in mice and rats. These studies entailed the use of very high amounts of PCB's, and the minimum amounts of these materials that will initiate the cancer process are currently unknown. There is also no

current evidence indicating the long term effects of PCB's in humans, although this may be known shortly. There is general agreement amongst knowledgeable parties that PCB's may be proven extremely harmful to people, and that their ingestion should be prevented at all costs.

What does all of this mean to the sports fisherman of New York State? For those of us fishing the Hudson River around the Fort Edward area, it is virtually certain that any fish taken from those waters are unsafe for human consumption. It is also very likely that fish taken from any other part of the Hudson River may also contain amounts of PCB's in excess of the same limit set by the federal government. However, although this latter assumption has not as yet been demonstrated firmly, it remains a good possibility. The Hudson is the only major source of Striped Bass north of the Chesapeake Bay. Therefore, all the bass of Hudson origin caught either on the north or south shore of Long Island may be suspect. For the fisherman on Long Island, virtually no information exists regarding any fish found there, including any fish taken from ocean waters. There has been no concerted, well-planned study made thus far of the waters off Long Island, and this includes Long Island Sound. Additional information in this regard can be obtained by writing to: The Bureau of Environmental Conservation, Albany, New York. Any results found for fish feeding and living in the Hudson River around the Fort Edward area do not necessarily apply to fish found anywhere else in New York State. Hopefully, more information regarding the extent of PCB pollution in fish and other seafood will be determined in the near future.

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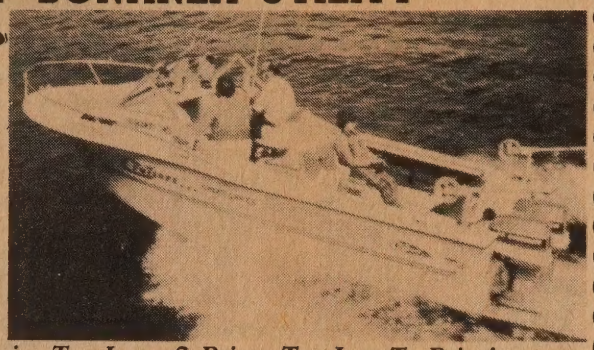

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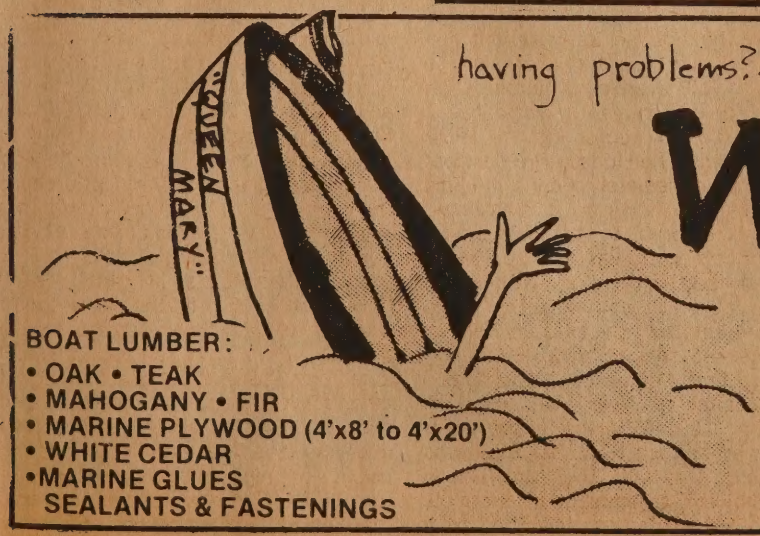

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What's New?

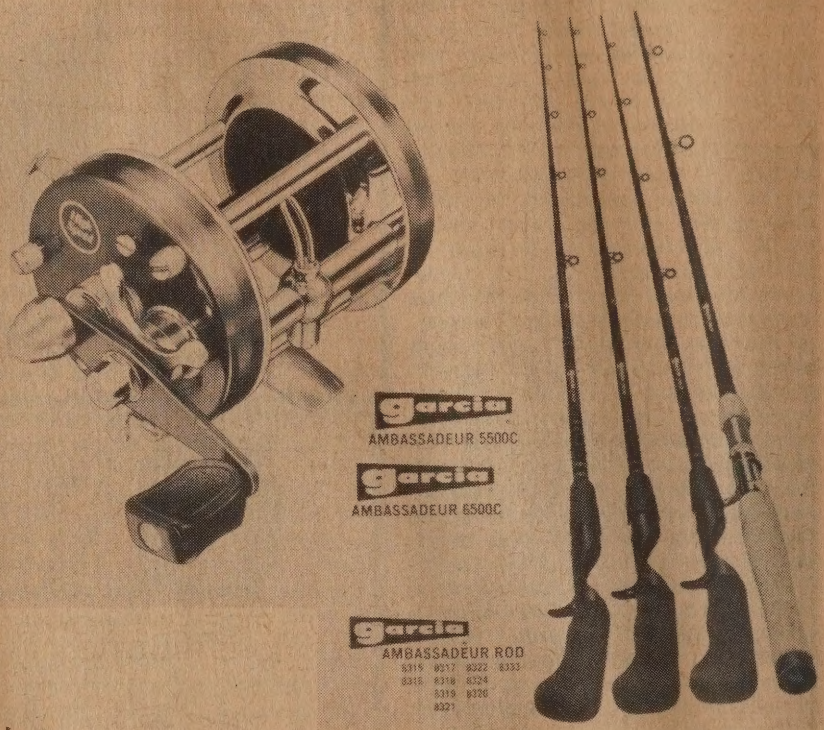
We have come a very long way in the 200 years since the birth of this nation. American technology and ingenuity have paved the way toward a better quality life for all Americans, fishermen included. The innovations in modern tackle not only make fishing more enjoyable but also much more interesting and challenging. Each year I anxiously await the new developments in angling paraphernalia. After all, obtaining new gear is almost as much fun as catching fish. So, here are some of the items that have caught my eye for the 1976 season. Maybe one will even appeal to you.

Bass Pro Sticks. According to the Bass Pro Shops catalog: The Pro Sticks are made of densely woven, high quality fiberglass cloth, In a new, revolutionary manufacturing process, each rod is tightly bound on precision machined manrilles under enormous pressure. The lamination of the rod blank wall is tighter with more fibers, providing strength far superior to most rods, particularly the new graphites. This same design produces an extremely lightweight rod which offers greater sensitivity. Pro Sticks are built strong, to be used hard on fighting bass.

Aside from these technical qualities the Pro Sticks are products of superior workmanship. They are a thing of beauty; rods that any bassman would appreciate. The rods have a rich steel-grey finish, highlighted with ebony and silver wrappings, Fugi guides moulded rubber handles and seven coats of hard epoxy. Each Pro Stick is backed by a one-year warranty and lifetime service.

The choice of rods encompasses several model designs: bait casting, spinning, fly casting. The range of actions span ultra light to heavy bass actions. For further information contact Bass Pro Shops, P.O. Box 4411, Springfield Missouri, 65804. If you are dedicated to the sport of bass fishing, make an attempt to see one of these truly magnificent rods.

Ambassadeur rods. The Garcia Corporation has developed a new series of worm, baitcasting and popping rods which complement their line of famous Ambassadeur reels. The rods have unique one-piece action and come in a wide range of actions and lengths. The bait casting and worm rods can be obtained in lengths from five feet to six and one half feet. (2 piece). The rods handle line weights from eight pounds to thirty, and lures from ½ ounce to 1¼ ounces. Each rod comes equipped with ceramic Conoglide guides and a contoured pistol grip handle (with the exception of the popping rod). If you own an Ambassadeur reel, one of these rods will be a natural companion.



Ambassadeur 2500C Baitcasting Reel. What fits in the palm of your hand, has ball bearings, a retrieve ratio of 4.7 to 1 and a lightweight spool of less than 6/10ths of an ounce? Give up? Well, it is the new Garcia Ambassadeur 2500C. This reel is a small scale relative of the Ambassadeur line of "big boys". It's compact size is ideal for use with many of the newer lightweight fat plugs and spinnerbaits, yet it has the guts to overtake the brute force of Mr. Lunker. The 2500C is sure to be one of the hottest new items for 1976.

Sportsmans Products Inc. I have been informed by Andy Powell, a local bass fisherman and field tester for Sportsman Products, of some new SP products of special interest to those of us that pursue the basses.

1. The Wild Thing—A lead head jig molded to a "wobble and wiggle" tail. It comes in nine different bass appealing colors, and in sizes of ¼ and 5/8 ounce.

2. The famous six inch Super Floater worms now come in four new colors: Brown, Brown/Black Stripe, Wine Purple/Yellow tail and Wine Purple/Yellow Stripe.

3. SP is offering a new display packaging with ten worms and a worm tote bag for fishermen.

4. Colored spinner blades for the time tested Bass Nailer spinner bait.

For a copy of the 1976 SP catalog write to: Sportsman's Products, Inc., P.O. Box 37, Marion, Indiana, 46952.

The Streamside Tyer. This is a small leather fly tying kit complete with all the tools and materials needed for streamside tying. Its size, 4" x 7" x 1¾", is ideal storage in a vest or pants pocket. The price is $59.95 and can be obtained from Laggies Fish Catching Co., 7059

(Continued on page 29.)

FISH & GAME NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

MULLET ARE PRIZE BAIT & FOOD FISH OF FLORIDA WATERS AND WERE NOT KNOWN TO RANGE NORTHERN AREAS UNTIL A FOUR-POUNDER WAS CAUGHT BY A LOCAL BASS FISHERMAN. THEY ARE PLANKTON EATERS AND RARELY TAKEN ON HOOK AND LINE.

MULLET CAN GROW TO 14 LBS.

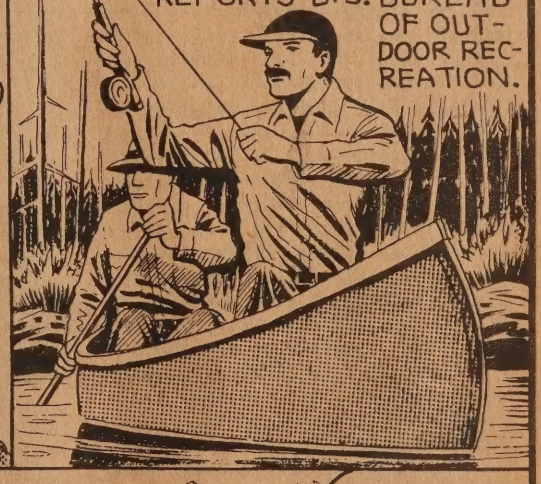
THEY RANGE ALL WARM, TEMPERATE AND TROPICAL SEAS.

LOST FOR THREE DAYS IN THE MICHIGAN WOODS, A DEER HUNTER SURVIVED BY EATING RAW RABBITS UNTIL HE WAS RESCUED.

12 MILLION PHEASANTS ARE TAKEN ANNUALLY IN THE U.S. AND COST HUNTERS AN AVERAGE OF $18 TO BAG EACH ONE.

THREE ALASKAN POLAR BEARS WILL BE OUTFITTED WITH ELECTRONIC BATTERY-OPERATED TRANSMITTER COLLARS ($52,000) TO TELL WHETHER THEIR WANDERINGS ARE INTERFERED WITH BY THE OIL PIPE LINE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

FISHING IS THE TOP U.S. SPORT ENJOYED BY 60 MILLION PEOPLE, HUNTING 22.2 MILLION, CAMPING 17.5, BOATING 23.3, CAMPING 17.5, TENNIS 8.6, GOLF 7.7 AND SAILING 4.1 REPORTS U.S. BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION.



OVERFISHING BY FOREIGN TRAWLERS OFF THE U.S. COAST IS CAUSING A SHORTAGE OF TRADITIONAL EATING FISH. YOU SOON MAY BE ASKED TO SUBSTITUTE SUCH "JUNK" VARIETIES AS SHARK, SEA ROBINS, TOAD FISH, HAKE, RED CRABS AND OTHERS NOT CONSIDERED MARKETABLE UNTIL NOW.

A Case For The Neophyte Fishing Philosophy

by Dr. William A. Muller

I followed Fred, that's Fred Schwab, he writes for this magazine too, along the shore of Scott's Hole toward the light. The crowds were heavy even on this 29th day of November and there was nary a free rock to stand on under the Montauk Light.

It is not unusual for big bass to be caught under the light in late November and this would be the best place to fish, but the hordes of eager "hopples" made that chore virtually impossible. There was one fella who seemed to know what he was about since he threw tins a country mile into the current and was careful to allow the metal to wiggle just above the bottom. He was rewarded for his diligence and knowledge and by late afternoon he had caught quite a few schoolies. He was happy.

Fred and I stood on the rocks behind one bearded fella with glasses and watched as he struggled with various aspects of the fishing. His casting, however, was pretty good. Furthermore, he was busy telling everyone how he'd found this white popper in the rocks and although he hadn't caught a thing he too was very happy. The description of the plug as a "popper" told the fishermen in the area that the guy was new at this game. The plug, as you can see from the photograph, is a blue and white bottle plug. Of course, this plug is a favorite night time lure at Montauk and anybody who fishes those shores, even occasionally, would know what it was.

Anyway, back to the story. The genial neophyte was in the company of a more experienced surf fisherman and this guy tried to give advice and encouragement to his "hopple" friend. The friend responded by changing the angle and force of the cast and indeed he was trying his best to do things right. Now Fred and I remained there for over a half-hour watching the water for signs of bait and breaking fish, but secretly hoping that most of the neophytes would soon leave for home.

Suddenly, Fred grabbed my arm and quietly told me to look straight ahead where I saw a huge bass roll in the surging current. It was about ten minutes to four in the afternoon. Fred's mind was churning now and the bearded neophyte changed to his newly found

"popper".

"Let's get out of here and go into Brown's!" Fred was up to something as he continued. "I should have thought of that earlier. We can climb out on those rocks and if there's any bait around we might find some fish." Montauk is Fred's stomping grounds so I yielded to his experience and knowledge with a simple—"Whatever you say."

The rest of this story is going to be a little hard to tell without confusing the hell out of you, but let me point out that there are really two different stories taking place at two different locales from here on. The hopples under the light is the first story and the adventures of Bill and Fred is the other story and it is by far the sadder of the two!

Fred and I went over a recurring conversation theme as his buggy bounced and wiggled over the ruts as we drove to North Bar and then out onto the road. The conversation goes something like this: "I can't believe all the hopples out this late in the year. You would think that their tackle would be gathering dust by now." I offered the first words of pearly wisdom. Fred would quickly counter. "Well listen they've been catching all the big fish so why should they quit?" My frustration was evident when I asked Fred for his theory about such inconsistent and lopsided fishing. After all, it wasn't only the guys in our club who had been shown up by hopples. There was the day that a couple of fellas from Farragut advised and helped a couple of neophytes on the south shore with their eel fishing only to have the hopples "clean their clocks."

"We think too much. We look at our logs and follow the traditional patterns of the fall fishing. We play the percentages just as we should but the fish have decided not to play the game. The hopples, however, responded to what they are being told. They aren't fancy but they are getting those plugs and baits to where the fish are." Fred was right of course. We all had been second guessing ourselves into many fishless nights.

Let me point out that at this time the "hopples" under the light were asking no such questions. They were, at that very moment watching the bearded "cat", Steve Savitz, hook into a bass on his "popper" that immediately stripped off 200 feet of line.

Back at the ranch, we climbed out of the buggy in the Fort and walked to the edge of the cliffs to see what was happening. The sun was dying fast and Fred was undecided about trying it. After all, by the time we dressed—incidently it was in the mid-thirties—and climbed down the cliffs and out onto a rock we would barely have a half-hour of fishing. Then I went and did it. I saw a spray of bait in amongst the ducks down there. So we were off. Once on the rock Fred had a hit on his second or third cast. Things were looking up! I switched to a small eelskin plug that I like alot and wham I had a fish on. A small fish, only about 5 pounds, but of the prettiest bass that I've ever seen. Fat and sassy with a purple glow that was fantastic in the red-orange light of sunset.

Just then a pod of bunker came through and under them the bass were feeding sending the bait flying through the air. We couldn't touch a fish!

Meanwhile, back under the light, Steve was merrily fighting his fish. Watched by about 50 tourists and 30 odd fishermen Steve worked the fish into the wash where his friend Pete jumped into the water and gaffed the fish. All the tackle stores were closed so where was Steve going to weigh in his fish?

At 7:30 P.M. the two excited warriors happened upon Captain Richie Nessel and Captain Carroll at the Jigger III. The Captain's scale told the truth and he signed a slip of paper to verify that the beast weighed forty-one and a half pounds! So Steve had his first striped bass ever and it was only his second surf fishing trip! Poor fella, what does he do for an encore? Take heart all you die-hards out there. He'll probably go out next May and catch one of about seventy pounds! Oh I can't take this anymore!

But although this is the end of this story as far as Steve is concerned it isn't the end of the whole story. No indeed! Stay tuned folks there's more frustration to come.

It was evening now and Fred and I were parked on North Bar planning our strategy for the evenings fishing. Now, a couple of things were very plain to both of us. With the temperature now in the low thirties and a breeze we would not be able to fish the entire tide. We would have to hit it in two hour spurts with short hot coffee breaks in betwen. Fred hesitated as we ate a sandwich. "I don't know what we should do," he said. "I really would like to catch the Bar after the water is moving a bit, but for most of the fall the fish have been here at high water and the turn of the tide." I was frozen to the marrow of my bones and I was guilty of talking Fred into waiting a bit before hitting the suds. My mistake!

Anyway, the time came to get in the water. A friend Whitey, was already out there with a couple of other guys and they had caught a few fish. Whitey even had a good fish on only to drop her, but his stringer did show a medium sized bass for his work. Once again Fred cast first and he had a hit immediately. I had a small fish on after about three or four casts but dropped it and I was bumped for a few more times besides. A good fish exploded on the plug of the guy standing next to me but he couldn't hold it either. When the current built up the fish vanished. Back to the buggy for some hot Ovaltine. At midnight we were back in the suds hoping that some bass would appear as the tide turned. We cast and cast and cast and cast. We worked the left, the right, and in the front too. Score-bass 10 anglers nothing! We had the Bar to ourselves too. I guess all the sane fishermen decided to sleep off the numbing cold.

At one-thirty a.m. we had had it! I climbed into my sleeping bag and fell off to sleep with my muscles in violent spasms to generate some heat. Now it would be Fred's turn to make a blunder. He wanted to sleep late after fishing into the morning as we had. And indeed his decision seemed wise, for when we awoke most of the other experienced Montauk regulars were just waking too.

Then came the bad news! Under the light, sometime between seven a.m. and eight a.m. another "hopple" had found himself a cow—all forty-four pounds of her.

"Let's go home Fred."

WINTER FLOUNDER
(Continued from page 10.)

flounders to be milt-laden males, mud-streaked, and on the thin side. Where the larger females winter, I don't know. As these larger fish don't usually put in an appearance until mid-march or later, it's quite possible they stay "in bed" a bit longer. There are plenty of smaller fish available, however; fish that run between a half and one pound plus the usual amount of throw-backs.

Double headers are common and the temptation to keep more fish than needed is great, especially after being "fish starved" for several months. Don't do it. Flounders are not migratory. They do not travel far from the bays in which they were born. Deplete the supply by over-fishing and you, your fishing buddies, and those who come after us will suffer. Gone are the days of super-abundance.

Conserve the flounder—now!

CRACK 300
(Continued from page 8.)

cam plate. Screw the three screws holding the side plate, replace handle and see if it works. If not go back and check to see if the tit and cam plate are engaged as this is my most common error.

The spool is now put on with it's 2 Teflon washers and the wing nut loosely screwed into place., The reel is now one greasy mess so wipe it off, enough will remain for protection. Now store in some easy to remember spot, as last minute rush to get to the beach can get hectic.

The sun is on it's swing North and the days are getting longer. Before you know it you'll be back complaining about the price of worms.

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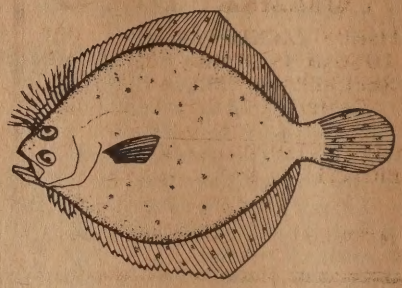

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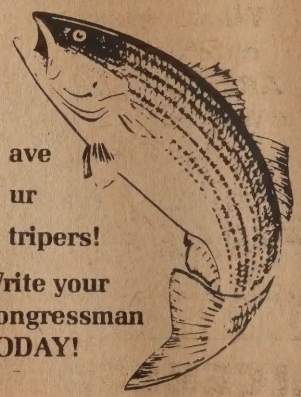

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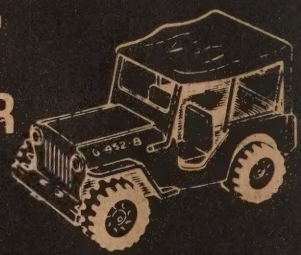

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

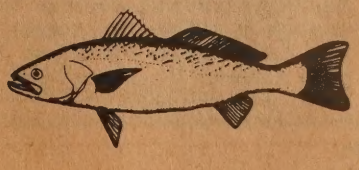
MONTAUK

Captain Lester Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** told us that they made their first trip to Coxe's Ledge on Saturday. Not many fish were caught but the cod that were were all big, so they tried the area again on Sunday with even better results. Jerry Feldran took the $3 pool with a 60 lb. cod and won $198. Larry Dostanco took 6 cod, largest 43¾ pounds that won the big pool of $353. On Saturday Lou Gambel took a $317 pool with a 49 pound cod. Lester told us that they started fishing the Coxe's Ledge area because the Block Island and Oartwright Grounds suddenly dropped dead recently. He was also very happy to inform us that at last there was a boat that could make Cox's Ledge in only 2 hours from Shagwong buoy—the **Peconic Queen III**. This cuts down the riding time more than 2 hours daily, which increases the fishing time by the same amount.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** told us that fishing has been good in the Montauk and Block Island area. On Saturday and Sunday over 400 cod up to 38 pounds and averaging 12 to 18 pounds were taken. A few pollack and bulldog blackfish are mixed in with the cod.

CAPTREE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the **Lady Ann** told us that the fishing in Captree was terrible all week with just a few fish caught at most. On Sunday afternoon a few cod were taken in the last half hour of the day which hopefully means that the cod action is in for an improvement. This coming Sunday, Feb. 22nd, will be the last codfish open boat trip this year for the **Lady Ann**. Neil told us that they are now accepting charters for spring and summer. Give him a call.

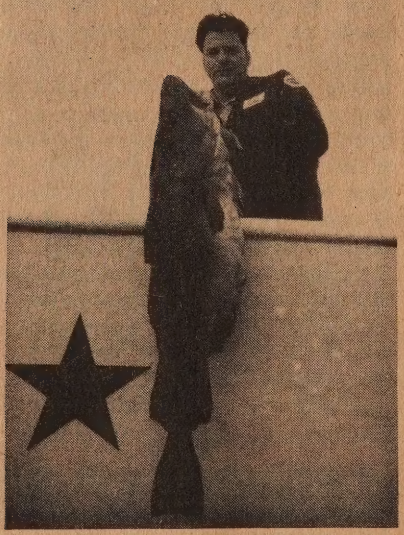


SHEEPSHEAD BAY

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Eagle** reported good fishing for whiting and ling on Sunday. Average catch was 10 to 15 large whiting and big ling per man. All the Sheepshead Bay boats did well on Sunday with the large turn-out of fishermen. Best area has been around the oil wreck which is 1½ hours south of Sheepshead Bay off the New Jersey Highlands. All aboard catch fish.



Here we have Sonny McLaverty of Pennsylvania with his catch from aboard the "Peconic Queen III" at Montauk. The cod weighed in at 52 lbs. Subscriber Club Photo.

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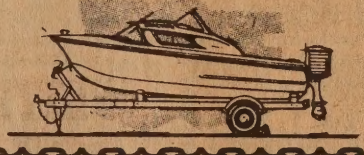
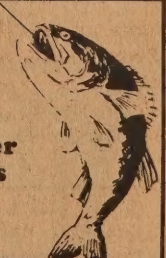


LINDENHURST

BULLET



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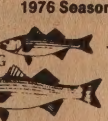

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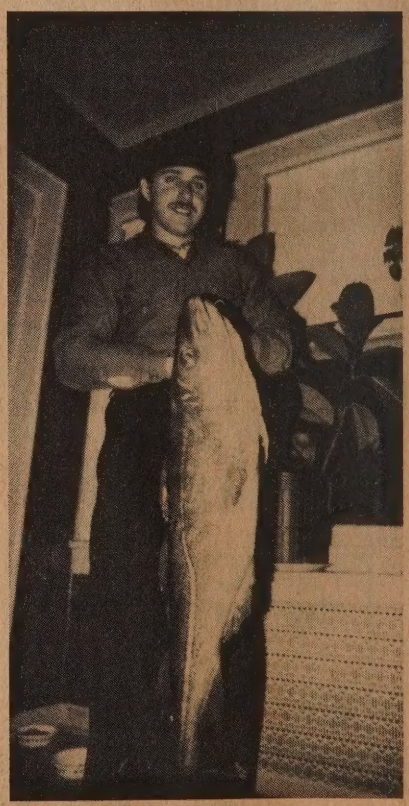

Mike Bady of Flushing proudly holds his 28 lb. cod taken on the "Peconic Queen II". Subscriber Club Photo.

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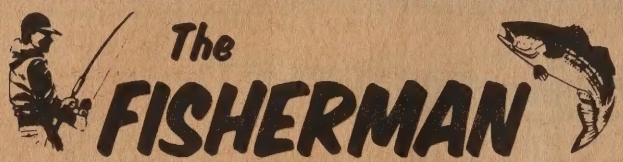

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IGFA RECORDS
(Continued from page 11.)

situation from happening. First, purchast only "Tournament" graded lines from manufacturers that guarantee their lines to break AT or BELOW the stated pound test. Or just use line testing a few pounds below the line classes: 8 or 10 lb. test line for a 12 lb. class line record, 15 or 17 lb. test for a 20 lb. class line record, etc.

Weighing requirements for a record fish is simple and fair to all. The fish must either be weighed by an official weighmaster or by a recognized local person familiar with the scale, such as a local bait and tackle shop or rowboat station proprietor. The fish must be weighed on scales that have been checked and certified for accuracy by a government agency or other accredited organization within the previous six months. Disinterested witnesses should be used whenever possible at the weigh-in, and the tackle the fish was actually taken on must be exhibited to both the weight witness and weighmaster. So forget about using a cheap $1.98 "Fisherman's" scale and a friend as a witness and expect to have the I.G.F.A. recognize the fish as a World's Records.

Photographs showing the full length of the fish, the rod and reel used to make the catch and the scale used to weigh the fish must accompany each record application, so take a couple of good snap shots and make sure they are developed before cutting up the fish for the freezer. Wait a minute! You aren't actually going to EAT a World Record Fish, are you? Have it mounted—it costs a few bucks, but how many times in your lifetime are you going to have a trophy of something you've done better than anyone else in a World of 3 billion people? There was a time when you had to send a trophy fish to Florida to get a decent mount, but this isn't the case any longer—Island Marine Taxidermy is turning out excellent fish mounts right here on Long Island.

Only fish caught in accordance with the International Angling Rules will be accepted as record claims by the International Game Fish Association. They are quite lengthy, but we'll highlight them here so you'll have a good idea what you can do and can't do. Naturally, in order to qualify for a world record the angler must hook, fight and bring the fish to gaff without the aid of any other person. Once the leader is within reach of a second person they may aid you in landing the fish by grasping the leader and gaffing or netting the fish.

Metal lines, including lead-core lines, are strictly prohibited. So the I.G.F.A. disagrees with any angler that thinks dragging an umbrella rig behind a boat at the end of 300 or more feet of wire line is "sport fishing". Treble hooks are now permitted on plugs and other artificial lures, but you are limited to a maximum of two. However, the use of treble hooks are limited to artificials being cast, and trolling with a boat is prohibited. Record applications for fish taken on artificials must be accompanied with a photograph of the plug or lure used.

Fighting chairs may be used if they don't have any mechanically-propelled devices that aid the angler in fighting the fish. Gimbals must be free-swinging and now allow the anlger to reduce strain or rest while fighting the fish. A gaff used to boat a fish must not exceed 8 feet in overall length. If a flying gaff is used, the gaff line cannot exceed 30 feet in length. Landing nets used to boat a fish also must not exceed 8 feet in overall length.

Entangling devices are obviously not permitted, so if you snag an 80 lb. bass while trying to snag a bunker, throw it back! Shooting a fish being played (including sharks) will disqualify the catch. Chumming with flesh, blood, skin, or guts of mannals is also prohibited, as is changing the rod or reel while the fish is being played. You also can't drive a fish into shallow water to deprive the fish of its normal ability to swim, or rest the rod on the gun wale of the boat while playing the fish. Leaders of any strength on all weight of tackle up to and including 50 lb. line class is limited to 15 feet in length; for heavier tackle, the leader may not exceed 30 feet. Leaders are not required to be used, however.

That just about covers the rules department. As a rule-of-thumb, any device or technique that may possibly give the angler an unfair advantage over a fish is prohibited, which seems fair enough to me. Next week we'll list what the current I.G.F.A. World Records are for our local species of fish and how to file a claim if you're ever lucky enough to break a record.

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1975 GRADY WHITE HATTERAS OVERNIGHTER, 204C. Powered by 115 h.p. Johnson with tilt-n-trim. Fully equipped for inlet and ocean sportfishing. Cuddy Cabin, CB Radio, Ross Straightline Graph recorder, 4 Flush Mount Rodholders, 200 lb. capacity Skimmer fish box, anchor and line. C.G. Equipment. Lovett Bilge Pump, Windshield Wiper, Richie Compass, Baitwells, Full Canvas and Aft Curtain. Self-bailing Hull, etc. Engine winterized, boat in dry storage. Can be seen at Starfish Marine in East Islip or call Scott Simons at The Fisherman at (516) 667-6633.

15' Fiberglass Run-A-Bout with 35 h.p. Evinrude O/B, Steering and Controls, Mahogany Trim, Navy Top, two Anchors with rope. Bilge Pump. Tilt Trailer. Extras. Garaged. Ready for water. $750. Eves (516) GE 7-3503.

1973 19'6" AQUASPORT, Twin 1975 50 h.p. Evinrude engines, Morse Controls, Depth Finder, C.B, Outriggers, Danforth Compass and more. Days (212) 755-8690. After 7 (516) 842-7774.

1973 32' NOVI Scotia Built Boat, 478 G.M.C. Diesel, Gemtronics White Line Recorder, Heated Cabin, Fantastic Sea Boat and extras. Anchor winch 1¾" shaft 2.51 reduction, Full Skeg. Call (516) 546-1480.

WINNER VISCOUNT, 21 ft. Cuddy Cabin, Only 14 hours old. Deluxe Model. Full Canvas and Extras. 140 Merc. I/O, an $8700 value, Must Sell $6450. Call eves at (516) 751-0845.

1972 24' SEAWIND Day Cruiser, Twin 120 OMC's, Deep V all Fiberglass, VHF, SS, Depth Finder, CB Radio, Rariton Head, Other Extras. Very Low Fuel consumption. 200 mile range. Very Low time. Excellent, like new condition. Northport. $7000. (516) 757-8831.

1974 Fiberglass 30 Ft. Custom Bridge Deck Fisherman. Documented, Twin 350 h.p. Mercruisers F/W/C Engines. Tower with controls. Teak Pulpit, SS Rails, White line recorder and Digital Electronic Compass. Washdown pump, CB, 3 outriggers and extras. $18,250. Call (516) 668-2111.

1975 EVINRUDE SALE—2-$175, 4-$270, 6-$370, 10-$490, 15-$536, 25-$617, 40-$748, 50-$1028, 70-$1198, 85-$1425, 115-$1525, ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Road, Lynbrook. Call (516) 599-5375. F.O.B.

1976 EVINRUDE CLEARANCE—2-$199, 4-$299, 6-$409, 10-$549, 15-$599, 25-$689, 35-$779, 40-$819, 55-$1199, 70-$1329, 85-$1519, 115-$1629, 135-$1689, 200-$2299. B & T BOAT CO. Montauk Hwy. E. Hampton. (516) 537-3662 F.O.B.

1976 EVINRUDE SALE: 2-$219, 4-$309, 6-$419, 10-$569, 15-$619, 25-$709, 35-$799, 55-$1249, 70-$1379, 85-$1589, 115-$1699, 135-$1769. SUFFOLK MARINE CENTER, Babylon, NY, (516) 669-0907 F.O.B.

24 Ft. ULRICHSON HARDTOP FISHING SKIFF, 125 Crown, Fresh Water Cooled, Ship-to-Shore, Depth Finder, Strong Sea Boat, In water in Freeport and will demo. $1100. Call (516) 485-5197 eves.

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1974 FORMULA 23' CENTER CONSOLE FISHERMAN, 188 h.p. Mercruiser, Bimini Top, Portapotty, Outriggers, Richie Compass, Console Cover and accessories, Boat Used in '75 Season only. 35 hours on engine. Excellent Condition. Asking $6900. Call (212) 882-7705.

34' Johnson Bros., Sleeps 4, Stand Up Head, Dingy, New Fuel Tanks, Twin F/W/C Chrysler Crowns. $2600. Call (516) 766-4345.

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COD KILLER RIGS—Whether you fish out of Montauk, Captree, Freeport, Sheepshead Bay, from Jersey or Conn. Ports, these double hook hand made rigs will fill the freezer. All hand tied, finest materials. Long time proven design. 3 rigs for $3 includes instructions on how to make up your own rigs. Send check or money order to P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpk., Merrick 11566.

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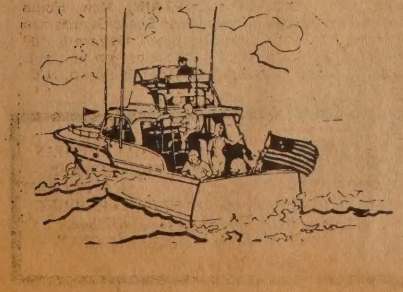

FISHING REPORTS

For up-to-the-minute fishing information, read Frank Keating's fishing column in the L.I. Press seven days a week.

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The Long Island **FISHERMAN**

FISHING TRIP CONTEST

We are sorry to say that the Fisherperson with license plate 881-NYV failed to call into The Fisherman by the Friday deadline so this week again, for the 2nd week in a row, there was no winner of the Litter Box Contest. This means that next week the winner will be entitled to $30 instead of the normal $10 and the free fishing trip for two.

This Week's Winner:

908-FIB

WHAT'S NEW

(Continued from page 16.)

Varna Ave., No. Hollywood Calif. 91605.

The Staff/Case. This unique tool is a sometimes wading staff, sometimes rod case. The staff is designed so that the inner portion can securely hold a two-piece 7½ foot fly rod. Sounds interesting. For more info, contact Ballyhoo Studios, 3142 N. Lamer St., Burbank, Calif. 91504.

Fly Tying Log. New log sheets with headings for hook, tail, body, tackle, fly design, etc. The sheets fit regular loose leaf binders. Now be certain that you remember how to tie that special fly. Contact Ballyhoo Studios.

Polyspin. The Cortland Line Co., Cortland NY has developed a revolutionary new spinning line that is neither a monofilament nor a braided monofilament, but rather a braided "multifilament". This is a line in which many strands of synthetic fiber are processed so as to afford sensitivity and strength along with the benefits of a small diameter. One significant feature of this line is its early warning system that alerts the angler to excessive line damage. A fuzz will develop, which means that its time to cut and re-tie. According to the Cortland Co., "It slips and curls less; it offers better line control, it has greater knot strength, it sets hook better; and it offers increased bottom feel. Polyspin is available in tests ranging from 4 pound to 30 pound, can be used in fresh water and salt and adapts to both conventional and spinning reels.

Now I know that there are literally hundreds of new products entering the fishing market at any given point in time, but the items just listed should be of interest to Long Island's fresh water anglers. With the new seasons slowly but surely approaching, take some of that dough you've stuffed into your pillow and treat yourself to something new.

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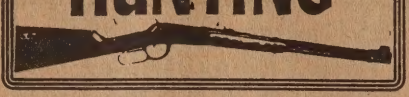

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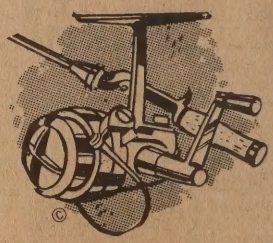

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TIDE TABLES

ON →		SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
DAY		AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
2/19	THURSDAY	10:29	11:03	:	12:03	1:27	1:51	1:32	1:59
2/20	FRIDAY	11:25	11:59	12:32	12:58	2:17	2:46	2:24	2:54
2/21	SATURDAY	:	12:22	1:30	2:02	3:15	3:55	3:20	3:52
2/22	SUNDAY	12:57	1:23	2:34	3:11	4:29	5:30	4:21	4:56
2/23	MONDAY	1:59	2:28	3:41	4:21	6:02	6:53	5:25	6:03
2/24	TUESDAY	3:05	3:37	4:50	5:27	7:18	7:58	6:32	7:09
2/25	WEDNESDAY	4:09	4:43	5:51	6:27	8:21	8:55	7:36	8:10
2/26	THURSDAY	5:07	5:37	6:40	7:18	9:16	9:46	8:32	9:02

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
2/19	7:35	1:55	8:05	2:20
2/20	8:35	2:50	9:00	3:20
2/21	9:35	3:55	10:05	4:15
2/22	10:35	4:55	11:05	5:20
2/23	11:35	5:45	11:55	6:10
2/24	:	6:35	12:25	7:00
2/25	12:45	7:25	1:15	7:50
2/26	1:35	8:10	2:05	8:35

PHASES OF THE MOON

2-29	2-8	2-15	2-22
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

2-5	7:10	5:19
2-10	7:04	5:25
2-15	6:58	5:32
2-20	6:51	5:38
2-25	6:43	5:44

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TUESDAY CLINICS:

To be held in Yonkers at the Polish Community Center, 92 Waverly Street - from 8 to 10 p.m.

MARCH 2
Fresh Water. Opening Day Tactics for Trout & Bass Fishing: Andy Gennaro. Electronic Fishing Aids: Jerry Gomber.

MARCH 9
Salt Water. Stripe Bass and Bluefish: Trolling: Al Ristori. Rigging and Fishing Bunker for Trophy Bass: Tim Coleman

WEDNESDAY CLINICS:

To be held on Long Island at the Union Hall, Local #25/IBEW Huntington, 41 Pinelawn Road (off Rt. 110), Melville Township - 8 to 10 p.m.

MARCH 3
Wire Line Fishing, Trolling or Jig Fishing: Pete Barrett. Electronic Fishing Aids: Jerry Gomber.

MARCH 10
Salt Water. Stripe Bass and Bluefish: Trolling: Al Ristori. Rigging and Fishing Bunker for Trophy Bass: Tim Coleman

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